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Green, Mark Ellison

System for organizing mechanic's tools or other items in a toolbox or other container.

Abstract

Mechanics tools and many items can be acquired individually or in groups and so can be very difficult to keep organized as the collection grows. Besides mechanics tools, other examples would include sewing and hobby supplies, though many other items or collections of items could also be listed here. We will use the example of mechanics tools for the purposes of this patent application, though the organizational concept can be applied to a wide variety of items.

Although there are a number of aids for organizing a mechanics tool box, they are not versatile enough to work in many existing toolboxes. We propose ideas and methods not only to assist in organization of tools in toolboxes, but also a method of mounting new tools for sale that would allow using the packaging material itself in the organizing process. The exact mounting mechanisms and/or interconnecting mechanisms are not as important to this design as is the concept of individual mounting units that can be interconnected into a variety of patterns depending on the user's needs.

Inventor: Mark E Green
Assignee: Mark E Green
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References Cited
None

We claim:

1. An organizational system for items obtained as individuals or as collections of individuals that would allow these items to be maintained in an organized state as the collection expands or contracts.

2. A method for packaging new items for sale that would allow utilization of the packaging material directly into the organizing structure that we are proposing.

3. A mechanism that allows for adding to or deleting from the tool-organizing matrix, as desired.

Background of the Invention

Mechanics tools are composed of many small items that are hard to keep organized for easy use. These include sockets, wrenches, screwdrivers, and other tools, all of various sizes. Continual resorting is required which is irritating and time consuming. There are organizing systems for toolboxes that are currently available. however they are generally too rigid and lack adaptability to fit many existing tool boxes. Even if they can be used, they often fit poorly into the housing container.. This results in wasted space and/or tools awkwardly divided between drawers or other spaces. Our goal was to devise a tool organizational system that maximizes organization as well as optimizes space utilization. Additionally, we established this system in a way that allows the system to grow or contract as tools are added or taken away from the collection. To accomplish this, we propose individual mounting units that can be added to the system structure or just as easily removed as needed. This system would lend itself to selling new tools or other items, mounted on these individual units which could then be snapped, or otherwise fixed into place, by one of many possible mechanisms, in whatever pattern fits the owner's needs.

Summary of the Invention

We propose individual tool mounting units that can be linked to form collections of tools in whatever organizational pattern the owner desires. These units snap or otherwise interlock into a pattern adaptable to the users needs. We have designed these mounting units so that they can be sold individually or in collections, allowing organization of existing collections of tool, or other items, or to also sell with new tools, or other items, already mounted on these units as part of the packaging material. These new tools could then be affixed directly into the expanding collection. The novelty of this design is the concept of separate interlocking mounting units. The exact interlocking mechanism is not important to the concept. As manufacture of these units progresses, the optimal mechanism for connecting the units would be decided.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 Schematic overview of the concept showing tools organized into a pattern.

Fig. 2 Concept of interlocking units and one example of how a tool could be mounted.

Fig. 3 Demonstrates four mounting units interconnected with tools already mounted onto them.

Detailed Feature Descriptions

In Fig. 1, an overview of the design can be seen. Each of the tools shown would be mounted on a unit that could then be interconnected into any pattern the owner desired. The mounting units could be small enough to hold only an individual tool or large enough to hold several tools at once. The sizing of the mounting units would be standardized so as to allow orderly growth of the collection pattern as more tools are added or orderly contraction as tools and their mounting units are removed. The dotted lines represent the boundaries of the individual mounting units which are shown already interconnected.

Figure 2 demonstrates one possible mounting unit and one possible mechanism for mounting a tool. There are many potential ways these units can be interconnected. The exact mechanism is not important to the organizational concept presented here. As these mounting units move toward production, the optimal interconnecting mechanism would be established.

Fig. 3 Further advances the concept shown in figure 2 by showing four mounting units interconnected. In this example, four socket type tools are shown already mounted onto mounting units. This mounting units would come in various shapes and sizes to accommodate a variety of mechanics tools, ort other items.

As mentioned above, tools come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The mechanisms for securing different tool types or other items to the mounting units would vary depending on the structure of what was being mounted.. Furthermore, though the mounting units could be greatly standardized as to size and shape, it would still be necessary to supply some blank units for filling in any gaps left in the matrix resulting from the mounting of tools of various shapes.

In summary we are proposing a mechanism to organize items into collections of user defined shapes or patterns by the use of mounting units that can be interconnected as needed. Items could be sold new already affixed to the mounting unit or the mounting units could be sold separately to allow organization of existing collections. The example used here is of mechanics tools, but the concept lends itself to many other applications and should not be limited to mechanics tools only. Further examples would include sewing need or hobby supplies, as mentioned above.

Mark E Green
405 Indiana Ave
Maryville, TN 37803